

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 7 and 10 – 11 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1 – 7 were allowed; claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,118,282 to Grieger (hereinafter referred to as “the Grieger ‘282 patent”); and claims 10 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Response and Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correct informalities, claims 8 and 9 have been canceled and claims 10 and 11 have been amended to be in independent form.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Grieger ‘282 patent.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, claims 8 and 9 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejections thereto moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Objections To Claims 10 And 11

The Examiner objected to claims 10 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 10 and 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to included all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to include the features of claim 8. Applicant therefore asserts that claims 10 and 11 are allowable as these claims now contain the subject matter of the their base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection.

CONCLUSION

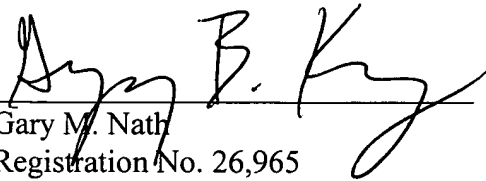
In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

Date: December 30, 2004
NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC
1030 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 775-8383

By:



Gary M. Nath
Registration No. 26,965
Gregory B. Kang
Registration No. 45,273
Derek Richmond
Registration No. 45,771
Customer No. 20259